

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ZABEN, LLC, *on behalf of themselves and all  
others similarly situated, et al.,*

Plaintiffs,

**ORDER**

-against-

23-cv-8178 (CS) (AEK)

JOHN HANCOCK LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY OF NEW YORK, *et al.,*

Defendants.

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**THE HONORABLE ANDREW E. KRAUSE, U.S.M.J.**

In order to facilitate the progress of pre-trial discovery in this litigation in a just, speedy and inexpensive manner, to ensure compliance with the case management plan, and to prevent the accumulation of unresolved discovery issues, the following procedures will be followed for the resolution of discovery disputes:

The party objecting to disclosure, claiming an insufficient response to a discovery request, asserting a privilege, or raising any other form of discovery dispute bears the burden of coming forward by bringing the dispute to the attention of the Court as hereinafter set forth.

In calculating when a dispute arises, the Court anticipates that the parties will have complied with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Civil Rules of the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, in that the discovery demand or disclosure at issue, and, where applicable, the adversary's response, have been served.

When a party determines it needs either to compel or preclude discovery, the party must, within **3 business days**, confer in good faith with the adverse party or parties in person, by video, or by telephone to attempt to resolve the dispute. If the dispute is not resolved within **3 business**

**days** of the completion of the meet-and-confer process, the objecting party then has **3 business days** to bring the issue to the attention of the Court by filing a letter motion requesting a conference, in accordance with Local Civil Rule 37.2. The letter motion must not exceed 3 single-spaced pages, unless otherwise specified by the Court. Any adverse party has **3 business days** thereafter to submit a response, which also must not exceed 3 single-spaced pages. Counsel may annex to the letter submissions the relevant portions of the discovery demands or responses at issue, and/or relevant portions of documents in dispute. Written replies will not be accepted. In most cases, the parties will have an opportunity to make oral replies to points made in the letters at an in-person conference regarding the dispute.

When a legal privilege is asserted as a basis for refusing to comply with a discovery demand, the parties must follow the same timetable set forth above for attempting to resolve the dispute and raising the issue with the Court.

The time limitations set forth herein and in any other scheduling orders of the Court are to be strictly observed, and the parties and counsel are not authorized to extend any of the set time limitations without the prior approval of the Court.

On matters assigned for pre-trial supervision, any party wishing to file objections to a discovery ruling entered orally on the record must, on the date of the ruling, order a transcript of the proceeding in which the ruling was issued. The transcript must be ordered on a **2-day expedited** basis, or faster. The objecting party then shall have 14 days from the date of the receipt of the transcript to file any objections with the assigned District Judge. A failure to order the record in accordance with these directions may result in a failure to timely file objections.

Finally, if issues arise during depositions that require the intervention of the Court, counsel may contact chambers by telephone at 914-390-4070 during the deposition for a ruling.

Dated: April 5, 2024  
White Plains, New York

**SO ORDERED.**



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ANDREW E. KRAUSE  
United States Magistrate Judge